

**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination.

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 7, 14 and 21 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

The claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention.

The foregoing amendments are supported by FIG. 7 of the present application.

In the Final Office Action dated November 4, 2005, the Examiner rejected the claims as follows:

Claims 1, 2, 7, 14, 15 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by **Bazinet et al.** (previously applied).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

**Bazinet et al.** fails to disclose generating the second drive signal (SG12) having a pulse width greater than that of the first drive signal (SG11) when the first drive signal is supplied to the main switching element (3). **Bazinet et al.** provides an L level second drive signal (116, 124) having the same pulse width as that of an H level first drive signal (118, 126) to the synchronous switching element (14) when the first drive signal (118, 126) is supplied to the main switching element (12) (see FIGS. 3 and 4 of **Bazinet et al.**).

Accordingly, claims 1, 7, 14 and 21 have been amended to recite this distinction.

**Preliminary Amendment filed April 3, 2006**  
**U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/624,644**

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 8-10, 16 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over **Bazinet et al.** in view of **Nishimaki** (previously applied).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Neither **Bazinet et al.** nor **Nishimaki** teaches, mentions or suggests the limitations of claims 1, 7 and 14, as amended, of the instant application, from which these claims depend.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 11 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over **Bazinet et al.** and **Nishimaki** and further in view of **Bridge** (previously applied).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

None of the cited references teaches, mentions or suggests the limitations of claims 1, 7 and 14, as amended, of the instant application from which these claims depend.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 12 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over **Bazinet et al.** and **Nishimaki**, and further in view of **Matsuda** (previously applied).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

None of the cited references teach, mention or suggest the limitations of claims 1, 7 and 14, as amended, of the instant application from which these claims depend.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

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Claims 6, 13 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Bazinet et al. and Nishimaki and further in view of Jain et al. (previously applied).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

None of the cited references teaches, mentions or suggests the limitations of claims 1, 7 and 14, as amended, of the instant application from which these claims depend.


Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

The above amendments are believed to place the claims in proper condition for further examination. Early and favorable action is awaited.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time  
Request for Continued Examination Transmittal  
Check in the amount of \$1,240.00

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